

Fact Sheet

Reviewed Jan 2011

How to Collect a Stool Sample

1. Remove the bottles from the plastic bag.
 - The bag contains bottles and a requisition form which is located in a separate pouch at the front of the bag.
2. On the main label of the bag, with a ball point pen clearly print:
 - The name of the person giving the sample.
 - The date of birth of the person giving the sample.
 - The date the sample was collected.
 - The onset date or when the person started to feel sick (if known).
 - If this sample is being collected as part of an outbreak, Toronto Public Health (TPH) will provide you with an outbreak number.

Do not peel off the sticker on the covering label.

3. The following information must be completed on the bottle:
If more than one bottle is being used, the same information must be completed on each bottle.
 - Name of the person giving the sample.
 - Date of birth of the person giving the sample.
 - Date sample was collected.
 - If part of an outbreak, outbreak number as provided by TPH
4. To collect the sample you can:
 - Loosely cover the toilet seat with plastic wrap.
 - Make a medium to large container out of foil.
 - Use a collection pan or disposable plastic container.
5. Using the spoon from the bottle, add stool (feces) up to the line indicated on the side of the container. Replace and tighten the cap. Make sure the cap of the bottle is put on well.
6. Place all the bottles into the plastic bag and return the requisition form to the pouch located at the front of the plastic bag (do not place the requisition form inside the bag with the specimen containers). Seal (close) the part of the bag that has the specimen containers in it by peeling off the blue strip.
7. Wash your hands with soap and water.
8. Put the sample into the refrigerator immediately (**Do Not Freeze**).
9. Call Toronto Public Health at: _____ to arrange pick-up of the samples.